

THE  
**FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Lake Meredith & Alibates Flint Quarry

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** LAMR

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Contrasting spectacularly with its surroundings, Lake Meredith lies in the center of the dry and windswept High Plains of the Texas Panhandle. Through this flat surface, the Canadian River has cut numerous deep canyons. Completion of the Sanford Dam in 1965 filled many of these canyons, forming the lake. Lake Meredith provides a multitude of recreation oriented activities such as fishing, boating, sailing, and swimming. Land based activities include hiking, camping, horseback riding, off-road driving opportunities, and hunting. Not only is Lake Meredith the largest body of water in the Texas Panhandle, it is the largest public lands open for hunting.

The employees at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area realize that the usage of the park is changing and we need to draw in a new visitor base with non-water based adventures. We will focus our future planning efforts towards developing additional land based recreational opportunities, while improving the traditional uses of the area. We will develop our education capacity through interpretive programs at the park and our outreach programs in the community. It is through our youth that we will nurture environmental stewardship and appreciation needed to sustain the National Park Service mission into the 21st century. We are committed to improve not only the visitor's experience and safety, but hold the same goal for our valued employees.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Cindy Ott-Jones

Site: LAMR

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

The petroglyphs and ruins at Alibates Flint Quarries are on a rocky out crop and are being worn away by environmental conditions. Making latex molds of the petroglyphs is a non-evasive way to provide a reproduction and thus preserving the rock art for future visitors, as the petroglyphs naturally deteriorate. An entire rock could be cast and placed in the Visitor Center's landscape for all to experience, while partial casts could be used inside the Visitor Center.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Continue to restore the native mesquite / short-grass prairie by the mechanical removal of the invasive Tamarisk and by the re-introduction of fire into the natural ecological cycle of the area.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: LAMR

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue to expand our education capacities by involving the outlying schools in interpretive programs, explaining the relevance in the National Park Service mission and how it benefits the local communities and the general health of our ecosystem.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: LAMR

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

We will strive for exemplary environmental management and leadership by complying with all applicable laws, incorporating best management practices, promote pollution prevention, sustainable use of natural resources, and reduce generated waste in our operations. First order of business will be joining with our concession operation in a park-wide recycling program.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: LAMR

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through outreach and interpretive programs, and one-on-one visitor contacts, we need to instill our visitor base with the vision that now matter how small the effort, it is important that everyone promote and contribute to the protection of natural and cultural resources. Reducing litter should be our first goal.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: LAMR

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Address the changing demographics of the area and develop additional land based recreational opportunities while improving upon the traditional uses of the area. Traditional uses include; boating, fishing, sailing, swimming, hiking, horse back riding, hunting, and off-road driving. New recreational opportunities that would draw in a new visitor base include; extended back country hiking trails, designated mountain bike and horse trails, picnic areas with volley ball and horseshoes.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: LAMR

**EDUCATION**

☒ **Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.**

☒ **Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.**

Ownership equates to good stewardship. This is another benefit that would be derived from the expansion of our educational and community outreach programs.

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Site: LAMR

**PROFESSIONALISM**

☒ **Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.**

☒ **Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.**

Re-establish a fully functional employee safety management system by revisiting the park's Safety Plan to make sure it includes a "lessons learned" for each accident or significant near-miss, and that the park program is a top management initiated program.

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☒ **Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

To facilitate and encourage the healthy life style trend, we would provide an exercise trail that would focus on individuals or small groups. Designated stations along the trail with simple exercise equipment (example: pull up bar, sit up station, dip station) would add variety to the walking trail in a safe environment.

The park has also determined a need for a safe, exercise area targeting larger groups. The healthy lifestyle initiative for groups is to provide two sand volleyball courts and three horseshoe pits near the Cedar Canyon Contact Station.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS